



# Review Articles

## Sound Building Advice

*Planning the College and University Library Buildings: A Book for Campus Planners and Architects.* By Ralph E. Ellsworth. Boulder, Colo.: The Author, 1961. 102p. \$5.00.

Ralph Ellsworth has published a very useful and timely book which should prove to be of considerable value to officials of colleges and universities who are planning new library buildings. And there are a great many new buildings now in the planning stage. This short book covers every facet of the planning process. It does not attempt to describe in detail all parts of a library building. Ellsworth has kept the various types of readers in mind throughout. This includes librarians who are familiar and those who are unfamiliar with library building planning problems. He has also kept constantly in mind architects of both types—those who have had library building experience and those who have not. Although he assumes nothing—or at last very little—on the part of the reader, he nevertheless manages not to offend the intelligence of the oriented.

It is well written, and although Ellsworth claims that the book is a “personal” document, he has remained extremely objective in nine-tenths of the book.

Readers of reviews on library-building books may grow weary of being constantly reminded that Keyes Metcalf is working on a definitive book for college and university library buildings. Nevertheless, it is necessary to bear this in mind; all of us (and this includes Ellsworth) should and do remain aware of that fact. There are a lot of unanswered questions which we hope the Metcalf book will answer. It may be several years before that book is completed, but meanwhile there are millions of dollars worth of academic library structures which must be planned, and I am sure others will share my enthusiasm for Ellsworth's having gone ahead with this excellent publication, since it gives planners so much sound direction and advice.

The author has a fine sense of what is generally accepted and what is an exception. This is most important, especially when the book is to be used by people without experience. He faithfully points out in each case what he considers an Ellsworth idea as compared to generally accepted practice. If he had not done this, the book could be dangerous in that his own ideas on library operation and building might be assumed by the uninitiated to the standard practice. Some readers of course will want to adopt the exception, but they should know when they are doing so.—*William H. Jesse, University of Tennessee Library.*

## The First Freedom

*The First Freedom: Liberty and Justice in the World of Books and Reading.* Edited by Robert B. Downs. Chicago: ALA, 1960. xiii, 469p. \$8.50.

Robert B. Downs has brought together a fascinating and masterful anthology of recent writings on the censorship of books. The opening and closing sections present a broad definition of issues in the perspective of history and of the future. Other chapters present the principal judicial opinions on the censorship of books, a variety of writings on private pressure groups, studies of the problem of defining obscenity, essays on political censorship, collections of statements by authors and writers' groups and by librarians and library associations, a group of essays on the censorship of textbooks, and two illuminating assemblages of writings on censorship in Ireland and under Fascism and Communism.

The editor has chosen to confine his selections to British (including Irish) and American writings since 1900 and to those dealing specifically with the censorship of books. Within those limitations this search has been thorough and his selections admirable. Many of the selections are conveniently available nowhere else; all of them benefit from being